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WARRINGTON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

ON THE WORK OF

**PUBLIC HEALTH
DEPARTMENT**

FOR THE YEAR 1961

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WARRINGTON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

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Mr. W. C. FARRINGTON, J.P. (until May)

Mr. J. HURLEY, J.P. (since May)

Vice-Chairman :

Mr. R. HANKINSON (until May)

Mr. C. L. BRIMELOW (since May)

Chairman, Health Committee ... Mr. W. C. FARRINGTON

Councillors :

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Mr. F. PHILLIPS	Burtonwood (until May)
Mr. V. C. VAVASOR	Poulton-with-Fearnhead
				(since May)
Mr. J. C. Warburton, J.P.	Croft
Mr. H. B. Wright	Cuerdley

STAFF OF PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT :

Medical Officer of Health	...	...	A. C. CRAWFORD, T.D., M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., D.T.M. (until November) R. ELLIS JONES, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H. (since December)
Chief Public Health Inspector	...	...	*W. A. MORRISON, M.R.S.I., M.Inst.P.C., BARRISTER AT LAW.
Additional Public Health Inspectors	...	...	*N. G. MAYNE, Cert. S.I.B. San Science Certified Smoke Insp. (R.S.H.) ... *W. T. DITCHFIELD, Cert. S.I.B. Certified Smoke Insp. (R.S.H.) ... *A. R. MOORE, Cert. S.I.B.
Clerical and General Staff	...	...	Mr. J. BARLOW Mr. F. A. SMITH Miss M. T. HAYES

*—Qualified Inspectors of Meat and other Foods (R.S.I.)

WARRINGTON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL
ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER
OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1961

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS,
 WARRINGTON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Mr. CHAIRMAN, MADAM AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present for your consideration the Annual Report on the health and sanitary conditions in the Rural District during 1961. My predecessor, Dr. A. C. Crawford retired on November 30th after many years service with the Council, and I, starting my duties on December 1st was given a warm welcome both by members of the Council and by the Staff.

During the year there was a large increase in the number of births, which rose to 653 from 573 in 1960 and although there was also an increase in the number of deaths, this was relatively small rising only to 368 from 357 in 1960. The number of illegitimate births rose from 14 to 18 but expressed as a percentage of the total live births the proportion rose only from 2.4 to 2.75 per cent. Both these figures are well below the average for the administrative county area. It is unfortunate to have to record a rise in the infant mortality rate which at 32.2 per 1,000 live births is the highest for at least seven years. It is, however, pleasing to report that this year the number of maternal deaths reverts to nil.

The death rate per 1,000 population for Tuberculosis shows a rise this year to 0.19 from 0.07 in 1960; the number of deaths were 8 and 2 respectively. The number of notifications of new cases of tuberculosis remained about the same at 13 as compared with 14 in 1960.

I think it should be noted too, that this year the number of deaths due to motor vehicles was 6 compared with 2 deaths last year.

Members will remember that there was an influenza epidemic at the beginning of the year, and this is reflected in the number of deaths due to influenza.

This year was a measles year in which 552 cases of measles were notified compared with 25 in 1960. This follows the usual pattern of measles and we can expect that in 1962 there will be many fewer cases.

I should like to express my thanks to the members of the Health Committee for the interest they have shown during the year and to the Staff of the Health Department for their support.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Madam and Gentlemen,
 Yours obediently,

R. ELLIS JONES,
Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION I.

PHYSICAL CONDITIONS AND GENERAL DESCRIPTION.

The Warrington Rural District is situate in the South-west of the County of Lancaster. It is bordered on the North by the districts of the County Borough of St. Helens and the Urban Districts of Newton-le-Willows and Golborne; to the East is the Urban District of Irlam, and on the West is the Rural District of Whiston and the Borough of Widnes. The southern boundary, which is also the County boundary, is the Manchester Ship Canal, and the northern perimeter of Warrington County Borough.

The area of the district is approximately 35 square miles, being 14 miles from east to west, with a narrow waist of about two miles in the centre between Warrington and Newton, broadening to an average width of about six miles.

Agriculture is the principal occupation in the area, but there are in the more urban parishes a variety of industries, including light engineering, brewing, brick making and paint manufacture.

The area is, as a whole, comparatively low-lying with only a gentle undulation to relieve the otherwise flat landscape. The fall of the land is to the south, with the streams and brooks discharging into the River Mersey, which winds its way across the southern portion of the district only slightly to the north of the Manchester Ship Canal.

DISTRICT STATISTICS

Area (acres)	22,733
Estimated population (mid. 1961)	31,170
Number of inhabited houses and flats	9,242
Rateable value	£358,781
Sum represented by a 1d. rate	£1,344
Births assignable to district	653
Deaths assignable to district	368
“ Natural increase ”	285

SECTION II.

VITAL STATISTICS

BIRTHS:	M.	F.	Total
Live Births—Legitimate	310	325	635
Illegitimate	5	13	18
	<hr/> 315	<hr/> 338	<hr/> 653

Live Birth Rates—"Crude" 20.9; "Adjusted" 20.1 per 1,000 Population; Comparability factor 0.96.

The "Adjusted" Live Birth Rate is the "Crude" Live Birth Rate after adjustment by a comparability factor supplied by the Registrar General.

	M.	F.	Total
STILL BIRTHS	6	7	13

Still Birth rate—19.5 per 1,000 total (Live and Still) Births.

DEATHS:	M.	F.	Total
General	187	181	368
Death Rates—"Crude" 11.8; "Adjusted" 12.0; Comparability factor 1.02.			

The "Adjusted" Death Rate is the "Crude" Death Rate after adjustment by a comparability factor supplied by the Registrar General.

INFANT DEATHS (Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age):

Total Infant Mortality Rate—32.2 per 1,000 live births.

	M.	F.	Total
Infant Deaths	13	8	21
Infant Mortality Rate of Legitimate Infants—32.2 per 1,000 live births.			
Infant Mortality Rate of Illegitimate Infants—Nil.			

NEO-NATAL MORTALITY:

Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks—16.

Neo-natal mortality rate—24.5 per 1,000 total live births.

PERI-NATAL MORTALITY:

Still births—13. Deaths in first week—11. Total—24.

Peri-natal mortality rate—36.0 per 1,000 total (live and still) births.

MATERNAL DEATHS—Nil.

Maternal Death Rate—Nil per 1,000 total births.

VITAL STATISTICS—COMPARATIVE TABLE

YEAR	LIVE BIRTHS		DEATHS (ALL CAUSES)		STILL BIRTHS		MATERNAL MORTALITY		INFANT MORTALITY				CANCER MORTALITY		
	No. regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 popu- lation	No. regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 popu- lation	No. regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 total births	TOTAL		NEO-NATAL		No. of deaths regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 popu- lation	Per- centage of all deaths		
							No. of deaths regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 live births	No. of deaths regis- tered	Rate per 1,000 live births					
1961	653	*20·1	368	*12·0	13	19·5	Nil	Nil	21	32·2	16	24·5	67	2·18	18·2
1960	573	*17·1	357	*11·3	13	22·2	1	1·71	9	15·7	6	10·5	56	1·74	15·7
1959	505	*15·2	324	*10·6	8	16	Nil	Nil	7	13·9	6	11·9	72	2·2	22·7
1958	485	*14·4	323	*9·6	15	30	Nil	Nil	4	8·2	4	8·2	57	1·7	17·6
1957	528	*15·6	366	*10·8	7	13	Nil	Nil	14	27	10	19	69	2·0	18·8
1956	450	*12·5	338	*9·4	7	15	Nil	Nil	14	31	9	20	52	1·44	15·4
Average 5 years 1956—1960	...	14·9	...	10·3	...	19	...	0·34	...	19·1	...	...	61	2·25	18·0

*ADJUSTED RATES

COMPARISON OF BIRTH-RATES, DEATH-RATES AND ANALYSIS OF MORTALITY AND MORBIDITY

	Warrington Rural		England & Wales
	1960	1961	1961
	Rate per 1,000 population.		
BIRTHS—			
Live—Adjusted	17.1	20.1	18.7
Crude	17.8	20.9	
Still	0.4	0.4	0.33
DEATHS—			
All causes (Adjusted)	11.3	12.0	12.0
Typhoid & Paratyphoid Fevers ...	0.00	0.00	0.00
Whooping Cough	0.00	0.00	0.00
Diphtheria	0.00	0.00	0.00
Tuberculosis all forms	0.06	0.19	0.07
Influenza	0.00	0.05	0.15
Smallpox	0.00	0.00	0.00
Ac. Poliomyelitis & Encephalitis .	0.00	0.00	0.00
Pneumonia	0.50	0.80	0.65
NOTIFICATIONS—			
Typhoid Fever	0.00	0.00	0.002
Paratyphoid Fever	0.00	0.00	0.005
Meningococcal Infection	0.00	0.00	0.014
Scarlet Fever	0.62	0.07	0.433
Whooping Cough	0.90	0.00	0.530
Diphtheria	0.00	0.00	0.001
Erysipelas	0.00	0.00	0.048
Smallpox	0.00	0.00	0.000
Measles	0.79	17.83	16.52
Pneumonia	0.15	0.32	0.40
Ac. Poliomyelitis (including Polio- encephalitis): Paralytic	0.00	0.00	0.017
Non-Paralytic .	0.00	0.00	0.004
Food Poisoning	0.00	0.00	0.170
	Rate per 1,000 Live Births		
DEATHS—			
All causes under 1 year of age	15.7	32.2	21.6
Enteritis and Diarrhoea under 2 years of age	0.00	0.00	0.00
MATERNAL MORTALITY—			
Excluding Abortion	0.03	0.00	0.27
Due to Abortion	0.00	0.00	0.07
	Rate per 1,000 Total (Live & Still) Births		
NOTIFICATIONS—			
Puerperal Pyrexia	0.00	0.00	0.181

DEATHS

The total number of Deaths registered in the district was 288; 41 of these were of persons whose usual place of residence was outside the district; these have been assigned to the areas in which they formerly resided.

121 deaths of persons normally residing in this area, but dying elsewhere, have been included in the total deaths properly assignable to this district.

CAUSES OF DEATH

	Males	Females	Total
ALL CAUSES	187	181	368
Tuberculosis of respiratory system	5	1	6
Tuberculosis—other forms	1	1	2
Syphilis	1	—	1
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—	—
Meningococcal infections	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—
Measles	—	—	—
Other infective and parasitic diseases	—	—	—
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	7	4	11
" " lung, bronchus	13	1	14
" " breast	—	6	6
" " uterus	—	3	3
Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms ..	18	15	33
Leukemia, aleukemia	—	1	1
Diabetes	—	—	—
Vascular lesions of nervous system	7	21	28
Coronary disease, angina	38	23	61
Hypertension with heart disease	3	15	18
Other heart diseases	12	33	45
Other circulatory diseases	11	5	16
Influenza	7	9	16
Pneumonia	16	9	25
Bronchitis	9	5	14
Other diseases of respiratory system	2	1	3
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	2	1	3
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	—	—	—
Nephritis and nephrosis	3	—	3
Hyperplasia of prostate	3	—	3
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	—	—	—
Congenital malformations	3	1	4
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	15	18	33
Motor vehicle accidents	5	1	6
All other accidents	6	4	10
Suicide	—	3	3
Homicide and operations of war	—	—	—

SECTION III

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING 1961

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING 1961

There were 599 cases notified during the year, excluding Tuberculosis. These tables show the number, by age groups, of Infectious Diseases notified, and the number removed to Hospital.

[illegible]

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES—COMPARATIVE TABLE

DISEASE	1961		1960		1959		1958		1957		1956		Mean of Years 56—60	
	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths
Scarlet Fever	24	...	20	...	47	...	32	...	23	...	31	...	31	...
Diphtheria .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles	552	...	25	...	328	...	82	...	601	...	53	...	218	...
Whooping Cough	9	...	31	...	25	...	3	...	18	...	16	...	18	...
Enteric group Fevers .....	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	5	...	1	...	1	...
Dysentery	2	...	1	...	3	...	1	...	17	...	...	...	4	...
Food Poisoning .....	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ophthalmia Neonatorum...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal Pyrexia .....	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...
Ac. Poliomyelitis and Polioencephalitis	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	2	...	3	...	1	...
Meningococcal Infection ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Primary and Influenzal Pneumonia	10	25	5	16	17	13	10	12	15	12	44	13	18	18
Erysipelas	1	...	...	...	3	...	4	...	1	...	3	...	2	...
Tuberculosis respiratory ...	11	6	13	2	18	3	17	3	35	4	18	7	20	5
Tuberculosis non-respi- ratory	2	2	1	...	...	...	3	1	3	...	5	1	2	1
TOTAL	612	33	98	18	442	16	155	16	721	16	174	21	316	24

TUBERCULOSIS

YEARS		NEW CASES				DEATHS			
		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
		M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1	.....	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
5	.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
10	.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
15	.....	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
20	.....	...	1	2	...	...	1	...	...
25	.....	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
35	.....	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
45	.....	2	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
55	.....	2	2	...	...	1	...	1	...
65 and upwards	...	1	...	...	...	3	...	...	...
Totals		6	5	2	...	5	1	1	1
Grand Totals ...		11		2		6		2	

CASES OF RESPIRATORY AND NON-RESPIRATORY
TUBERCULOSIS ON REGISTER AT 31st DECEMBER

YEAR	Respiratory			Non-Respiratory		
	Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total
1957	132	81	213	27	26	53
1958	139	77	216	27	27	54
1959	151	98	249	16	19	35
1960	154	98	252	18	19	37
1961	155	99	254	19	18	37

SECTION IV.

FOOD HYGIENE

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955.

The following details of food samples taken under the above Act, have been supplied by the County Medical Officer of Health.

A total of 151 samples were obtained, consisting of 122 samples of milk (5 of which were Channel Islands milk) and 29 others comprising :—

3 Table salt	4 Fish paste
4 Cooking fat	1 Edible cooking oil
1 Orange drink to be diluted	1 Orange and barley drink to be diluted
2 Tapioca	
1 Minced turkey and jelly bottled	6 Meat paste, bottled
1 Ground rice	1 Rice
1 Semolina	1 Pearl barley
	2 Beef suet

I give below details of one sample upon which the County Analyst gave an adverse report:—

<i>Type of Sample</i>	<i>Result of Analysis</i>	<i>Action taken</i>
1 Informal milk	Fat 2.90%, deficient 3.3% fat	Vendor notified

FOOD PREPARING PREMISES.

All premises used for the preparation and storage of foodstuffs, grocers, butchers, ice-cream suppliers, bakehouses, street traders and food delivery vehicles were inspected. The supervision of canteens in factories, etc., is included in Section VII of this Report. It was not found necessary to take legal proceedings for non-compliance with regulations.

Food Preparing Premises		
Type of Business	Number	Inspections
Grocers and Mixed General	67	141
Butchers	8	18
Fried Fish Shops	6	14
Cafes and Mobile Snack Bars	8	56
Ice-cream Vendors	36	—
ICE-CREAM		
Number of Retail Vendors registered		34
Number of Bacteriological samples taken		17
Result of samples	Grade 1	12
	Grade 2	4
	Grade 3	1
	Grade 4	—

In general it may be taken that Grades 1 and 2 are satisfactory and we thus only had one unsatisfactory sample out of a total of 17.

There is no ice-cream manufactured in the area, and the retailers now registered sell pre-packed ice-cream only.

MILK SUPPLIES

Routine milk sampling has continued throughout the year for the purpose of bacteriological analysis, which aims at ensuring a general standard of purity as regards the total number of organisms which affects the keeping quality of milk (Methylene Blue Tests), the efficiency of pasteurisation processes (the Phosphatase Test) and is concerned specifically as to the presence in the samples of the bacillus of tuberculosis, the bovine species of which is of course the cause of tuberculosis diseases in bones, joints and lymphatic glands, and may also attack other organs of the body.

HEAT TREATED MILK

	No. of Samples	No. Unsatis.
“ Pasteurised Milk ”		
Phosphatase Test	31	—
Methylene Blue Reduction Test	26	5

INSPECTION OF MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

The bulk of this work continues at a Bacon factory where line dressing is in progress and which places on the Inspector a responsibility which has to be resolved within probably no more than one minute. This duty is exacting and demands both mental and physical output of the highest order.

Carcases inspected and condemned

	Cattle, Cavles			Pigs			Sheep		
	1959	1960	1961	1959	1960	1961	1959	1960	1961
Number killed (if known) ...	3	Nil	Nil	79,544	64,452	74,584	11	Nil	2,006
Number inspected	3	Nil	Nil	79,544	64,452	74,584	11	Nil	2,006
All diseases, except T.B.:									
Whole carcases condemned...	Nil	Nil	Nil	202	129	144	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned...	Nil	Nil	Nil	4,788	3,699	6,545	Nil	Nil	6
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than T.B. ...	Nil	Nil	Nil	6·2%	5·9%	9%	Nil	Nil	Nil
Tuberculosis only:									
Whole carcases condemned...	Nil	Nil	Nil	107	28	46	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned...	Nil	Nil	Nil	1,489	1,198	1,021	Nil	Nil	Nil
Percentage of the number in- spected affected with Tuber- culosis	Nil	Nil	Nil	2%	1·9%	1·4%	Nil	Nil	Nil

OTHER FOOD-STUFFS CONDEMNED

Of the food inspected the following was voluntarily surrendered. This class of food-stuff is examined on special request or in the course of routine visits to food premises.

6 tins Baby Food
53 tins fruit.
26 tins meat.
10 tins vegetable.
19 tins milk.
10 tins fish.
7 tins soup.
67 lbs. meat.
112 lbs. potatoes.

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACT, 1933 TO 1954

There are 27 Slaughtermen holding licences granted by this Authority.

SECTION V.

HOUSING

The number of inhabited houses and flats in the area is gradually rising and now totals 9,242. New construction is gaining pace and shows a most creditable increase since 1953, an increase which is mainly due to private developers. The average number of houses completed by the Council each year since 1948 is 65 and this year nil.

The total number of Council Houses is now 1,124; private houses completed totalled 246 and thus 246 houses were available for occupation for the first time in 1961.

In view of the fact that private construction is high, that there is a turnover in Council tenants of approximately 70 per year, that there are few applicants on the housing lists with urgent need, and that present interest rates remain high, it is the Council's intention not to construct any houses during 1962.

Although the re-housing problem may now be considered to be a minor one it is felt that there is still a need for bungalows for aged persons, the fulfilment of which would provide greater flexibility in the management of the Council's estates.

Under the House Purchase & Housing Act, 1959, there are now two types of grant available to owners for modernising houses.

1. IMPROVEMENT GRANTS—DISCRETIONARY

These are discretionary but include works which apply to the house as a whole. Inspections are made regarding repair works and the application is then dealt with by the Council's Surveyor.

Nine applications were made for assistance and nine were approved. It is significant that these applications were made in the main by owner-occupiers. Total amount of grant—£1,826.

2. STANDARD GRANTS

These are obligatory and are to provide the sanitary essentials—Bath, W.C., Wash-hand basin, hot water and a foodstore. The administration of these Grants is controlled by the Chief Public Health Inspector. The number of applicants is steadily rising but it is considered more use would be made of this type of grant if loans by the local authority to the owners were readily available.

No. of Houses for which applications made	65
No. of improvements completed	36
Total amounts of grants	£4,375/8/-

The number of applications for Certificates of Disrepair under the Rent Control Act, 1957 has continued to fall and may now be considered insignificant.

Application for Certificate of Disrepair	5
No. of "G" Forms checked at houses	5
No. of Certificates authorised	5
No. of Certificates refused	Nil
Notices of Proposal to issue Certificates (J)	5
Undertakings accepted "K"	2
Undertakings refused	Nil
Certificates of Disrepair issued	3

NEW HOUSES ERECTED

	Prefabricated			Traditional Permanent		
	Temporary	Permanent				
	1959	1960	1961	1959	1960	1961
Other bodies and persons ..	Nil	Nil	Nil	293	468	246
Local Authority	Nil	Nil	Nil	59	48	Nil

CARAVANS

The Caravan sites and Control of Development that came into force during 1960 and since that time considerable efforts have been made to review and licence all sites in the area. Close co-operation is effected with the Surveyor's Department concerning the enforcement of planning control over new and existing sites.

Number of licensed sites	41
Total number of Caravans	77

Caravans in all cases are occupied as living vans for permanent occupation all the year.

INSPECTION OF EXISTING PROPERTIES

INSPECTION OF DWELLING-HOUSES DURING THE YEAR.

1. (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health and Housing Acts) 554
- (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ... 901
2. Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation 8
3. Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation 228

REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE
OF FORMAL NOTICES.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	201
---	-----

ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR.

(a) *Proceedings under Sections 9, 10, and 16 of the Housing
Act, 1936:*

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	Nil
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notice :—	
(a) By Owners	Nil
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners .	Nil

(b) *Proceedings under Public Health Acts*

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	228
(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—	
(a) By Owners	22
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners .	8

(c) *Proceedings under Housing Act, 1957 (Section 17)*

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	8
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pur- suance of Demolition Orders	23
(3) Number of dwelling-houses closed	Nil

LEGAL ACTION

<i>Case</i>	<i>Nuisance</i>	<i>Court decision.</i>
No. 1	Various	Case withdrawn. work completed.
No. 2	Various	Application for Nuisance Order. Case adjourned 1/2/61. Case withdrawn. Work completed.
No. 3	Various	Application for Nuisance Order. Case adjourned 5/4/61 and 3/5/61. Case withdrawn. Work completed.
No. 4	Various	Application for Nuisance Order granted. Application for Penalty granted, £5. Application for daily penalty granted, 5/- per day

SECTION VI.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

WATER SUPPLY

A piped supply of water extends throughout the area, with the exception of some isolated farms and cottages. The principal supplier is Warrington Corporation, but a small area of Cuerdley Parish is supplied by Liverpool Corporation.

Pollution still exists in a deep well source of supply, but the provision of suitable chlorination and de-chlorination equipment enables the supply to be continued. The scheme for the sewerage of what is a scattered Rural Area has been prepared and is being submitted to the appropriate authorities for their approval.

The number of houses without a proper supply of water within the house has been gradually reduced and the table below indicates how small these cases now are.

From Public Mains		From Private supplies, e.g. wells, springs, etc.	
PARISH	Direct to houses		
	No. of dwelling houses	No. of dwelling houses	No. of population
Burtonwood	800	2	3
Croft	533	1	3
Cuerdley	50	—	...
Penketh.....	1,675	...	...
Poulton	2,089	...	...
Rixton	616	1	3
Sankey	1,876	...	...
Winwick plus Mental Hospital	519	...	...
Woolston	1,080	...	...
Total Whole District ...	9,238	4	9

RIVERS AND STREAMS

The area is traversed from north to south by two main streams—the Sankey Brook and the River Glaze. Across the southern boundary runs the River Mersey, the eventual outlet for these streams. There are several smaller brooks winding through the area, but none of any particular note.

Sewerage schemes have been developed in the more urban parts of the area and a noticeable improvement has already taken place in the streams. It is most essential that when pollution is reduced by the construction of proper sewerage schemes, new pollution is not allowed by development outside the scheme.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

The method of drainage from a large number of properties in the area consisted of treatment in a septic tank and discharging into the nearest ditch or stream. This effluent in all cases was unsatisfactory and without adequate filtration could not of course be satisfactory. Large numbers of these tanks have been replaced by the new sewerage schemes and no new installations are being provided unless they are built to a standard specification and provided with a suitable filter.

The position with regard to sewerage schemes as a whole may be summarised as below :—

<i>Parish</i>	<i>Sewers</i>	<i>Conversions</i>
Burtonwood & Collins Green	Completed	Completed
Croft	Scheme prepared. Date of completion not known	Very few
Cuerdley	Sewers completed	Completed
Penketh	Completed	In progress
Poulton-with-Fearnhead	Sewers completed	Complete by end of 1962
Rixton	Complete except for two	To be completed
Hollins Green	minor lengths	during the end of 1962
Glazebrook	Sewerage scheme to be connected to new works at Irlam U.D. probably during 1963	Completion by 1963
Sankey	Sewers completed	In progress
Winwick Houghton Green	Scheme prepared. No completion date	No completion date
Winwick St. Oswalds	Scheme completed	Completed
Woolston	Scheme completed	In progress

PUBLIC CLEANSING

The collection and disposal of refuse, together with its ancillary functions by the Local Authority, is under the control of the Chief Public Health Inspector. The collection service, which is weekly, is carried out by special-type refuse vehicles, with loaders*

cabs. Due to the fairly long distances that machines have to travel from the depot, the inclusion of the loaders in the driver's cab is obviously a desirable feature. Certainly the weather protection and additional safety provided appear to be thoroughly appreciated by the workmen.

The collection of pail contents is carried out weekly by a similar machine. A detachable tank is mounted on rollers inside the body, a method which simplifies both loading and unloading. Supplies of both liquid and powder disinfectants are carried in order that pail compartments and pails may be treated as required. This procedure is far from satisfactory, but is probably as effective as any other under the circumstances. The only solution to this problem is the conversion of the pail closets as rapidly as possible to a water-carriage system. This class of work has materially reduced and will shortly only be in use for the scattered properties.

All workmen are provided with protective clothing, and although this provision is by no means cheap, yet it is a feature that is now a necessity if workmen are to be encouraged to engage in this class of work.

The provision of dustbins and sanitary pails is carried out by the Local Authority as a rate charge and enables unsatisfactory bins and pails to be replaced with the minimum of delay. The storage of refuse at the home, pending collection, must obviously be in a hygienic manner, and this can only be effected by the provision of a proper receptacle. B.S.S. bins are purchased in bulk and delivered weekly. Weekly reports are received from each driver, of the bins and pails requiring replacement, the addresses are checked in a card index file, the bin or pail is inspected, and delivery receipts are signed by the householder. Where a bin is being mis-used, a visit is paid by an inspector, when the householder is warned that they will be held liable for replacement. Three sizes of bins are issued— $3\frac{1}{4}$, $2\frac{1}{2}$ and 2 cubic feet, the size of bin being decided by the type of house and size of family.

A scheme for the quarterly inspection of vehicles by a sub-committee at which points are awarded for maintenance and cleanliness has provided a competitive spirit in this work, and the monetary prizes awarded appear to take second place to the pride which the winning driver takes in his achievement. This scheme has raised vehicle care and maintenance to a higher level and ensures that each driver becomes fully cognizant of what is required of him.

The disposal of dry refuse takes place at two tips throughout the area. A Track Marshall Refuse Control Model Bulldozer is used to excavate soil and cover the tipping sites. Wire netting screens are provided to prevent nuisance by blowing paper, and all reasonable steps are taken to ensure that the sites are satisfactory.

The gradually increasing number of houses of the semi-detached and detached type, and the conversion of hostel sites into flats has, because of long carries, considerably increased the collection time since the end of the war. A special twice-weekly collection of refuse is made from certain sites, and in one case a daily collection is made. For these additional services a special charge is made.

STATISTICS:

Machines employed—

Karrier Dual Tip, Diesel	4
Karrier Bantam with "Derby" body	2
Karrier Bantam, Refuse Collector, with standard steel body	1
Karrier Gamecock	1
Commer van 7 cwts.	1
Commer van $\frac{3}{4}$ ton	1
Trailers	6
Track Marshall Tractor	1

Workmen—

Number of Drivers	8
„ „ Labourers, all classes	26
Foreman	1

Dustbins and Pails—

Number of Dustbins provided	834
„ „ Pails provided	14

Income from Trade Refuse collections £1,105.11.6

Income from Refuse Disposal £70.0.0

SALVAGE

The direct collection of salvage has been confined solely to waste paper and cardboard. Due to the scattered nature of the area it is not considered that other materials could be separated and sold at a profit.

The collection of waste paper is made by means of large, covered trailers behind a refuse collection vehicle. The provision of a smart trailer serves a two-fold purpose—a good advertisement, and, secondly, an eminently suitable collection method.

Shops and large business premises are visited once each week by a special vehicle. The sorting of paper at tips is not as thorough or as satisfactory as one would wish, due to the soiling of paper after mixing with household refuse.

The amount of waste paper sold during the last three years was as follows :—

		tons	cwts.	qrs.		£	s.	d.
1959	.....	238	0	2	.....	1,940	4	2
1960	.....	222	0	2	.....	1,606	7	4
1961	.....	277	4	3	.....	2,483	2	1

A bonus is paid to workmen on the weight of paper collected each month above a fixed datum figure. Salvage prices have continued to fluctuate and unfortunately sales are restricted from time to time by the purchasing company.

RODENT CONTROL

The recommendations of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries are pursued in this sphere of work. One operative is engaged whole-time and one part-time, and the methods used are those recommended by the Ministry. Both operators and the general foreman have undertaken special instruction courses organised by the Ministry.

All Local Authority's properties, refuse tips, sewerage works, etc., were regularly inspected and treated. The sewers and sewer ditches were test-baited and treated where necessary.

On private properties treatment is carried out by agreement. Private houses are charged where the costs are recoverable, but all business premises are charged the full cost of treatment. The two offensive trade factories are both classed as areas of reservoir infestation, and both have private contracts in force with service operators.

Farmers and threshing contractors are reminded annually of their duties when threshing ricks, by means of circulars, but unfortunately it is necessary to threaten legal action for full compliance.

Rodent control is a statutory duty of a Local Authority, and effective measure must be undertaken to ensure that the rat population is kept to a minimum. Contract schemes are undertaken for farmers and special premises; this service is expected to expand with the cessation of rodent contracts by the County Agricultural Committee.

STATISTICS:

The number of infestation treatments were as follows:—

	Major	Minor
Business premises	3	20
Private dwellings	—	229
Local Authority	—	8

In addition, 87 manholes were test-baited.

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION

Regular observations have been made of all factory chimneys for smoke emission. The visits and advice of your Inspectors has resulted in a considerable improvement at various factories. New furnaces have been fitted in a wire rope factory; automatic stokers, new boilers, and conversions to oil firing have all helped to reduce this problem.

Byelaws relating to the installation of suitable firegrates in new houses came into force on 1st July, 1958.

Probably the most potent factor affecting the use of smokeless fuels is that of price. Large numbers of so-called overnight burners have been installed, mostly incorrectly, and are used to burn coal slack in a manner calculated to provide the most pollution.

VERMINOUS AND FILTHY PREMISES

The days when the serious infestation by bugs, of numbers of houses, seem to have gone, certainly so in this district. The residual toxicity of D.D.T. seems to have provided a long-awaited answer to the problem. Very few houses required treatment and, of these, the infestations were not heavy.

OFFENSIVE TRADES

There are two offensive trades in the area, only one of which is in full production. The trades carried out are fat extraction, bone boiling, and glue making. One factory is also combined with a Knackers' yard and produces pet foods.

To prevent flies, each factory carries out spray patrol, whereby the whole of the premises are treated with D.D.T. insecticides. This system has proved of marked benefit.

Premises in Risley, used for breeding maggots for use as fish bait, not legally an Offensive Trade, have been regularly visited to ensure that a reasonable standard of cleanliness and control is maintained.

This class of work takes up a surprising amount of inspectorial time, particularly in the warmer months of the year, and yet it is only by maintaining regular and continued visits that satisfactory results are obtained.

SANITARY ACCOMMODATION OF HOUSES AND SCHOOLS

Conversions are now being carried out in all Parishes where the sewerage scheme is sufficiently far advanced.

The position at the 31st December was as follows :—

W.C. Conversions completed at :—

Burtonwood & Collins Green	7
Croft and Risley	2
Padgate	40
Penketh	52
Rixton	—
Sankey	30
Winwick	—
Woolston	2

Appropriate notices are being served on Owners of properties where conversions can be made and 50% of the approved cost paid in each case. Where owners carry out such work voluntarily, a similar grant is made. Extensions and improvements have now been carried out to nearly all licensed premises, but difficulties exist where sewers are not available—particularly Croft parish. Grants paid towards cost of conversions total £1,397. 19. 11.

The number of pails in use :—

	Houses	Caravans
Burtonwood	38	5
Croft & Risley	143	15
Poulton	66	4
Penketh	169	3
Rixton	70	3
Sankey	97	10
Winwick	29	4
Woolston	63	21
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	675	65
	<hr/>	<hr/>

SECTION VII.

INDUSTRIAL AND COMMERCIAL CIRCUMSTANCES.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

There are now 42 factories registered in the area, the principal ones being engaged in tanning, light engineering, wire-rope making and brewing. Routine inspections have been made and the attention of H.M. Inspector of Factories has been drawn to matters within his jurisdiction.

Particular attention has been paid to the standards of hygiene practised in the canteens. Some of these are maintained and run to the highest standards, but in others, constant supervision is necessary. A special approach is made to each manageress and staff to ensure that scrupulous attention is paid to personal hygiene. Circulars and posters have been provided for use within the canteens and kitchens.

Number of Canteens : 15.

Good co-operation has existed with all factory managements and in no case has there been any necessity for statutory action on any of the matters for which the Local Authority is responsible.

SHOPS AND OFFICES

Certain duties in the inspection of shops devolve on this Authority and certain others on the County Council. The inspectoral duties of the County Council have now been delegated to this Authority. The procedure is for half-yearly reports to be sent to the County on the matters for which it holds responsibility for action to be taken where necessary. It is unfortunate that this procedure tends to discourage the Inspector concerned from taking more than a cursory interest in this sphere of work.

It has not been found necessary to take statutory action to secure any of the requirements under the purview of this Council, all recommendations having been dealt with informally.

SHOPS

<i>Type of Business</i>	<i>Numbers</i>
Grocers and Mixed General	68
Greengrocery and Fruiterers	9
Butchers	8
Fried Fish Shops	6
Cafés and Mobile Snack Bars.....	8
Newsagents	8
Hardware	6
Drapers	4
Hairdressers	3
Chemists	2
Post Offices	6
Boot Repairers	1
	<hr/>
	129
	<hr/>

PETROLEUM AND CARBIDE STORAGE

The number of Licences issued for the storage of Petroleum and Carbide of Calcium are as follows :—

Number of Licences to store Petroleum	62
„ „ gallons of storage capacity	107,210
„ „ Licences to store Carbide	3
Total amount of Carbide permitted	1,792 lbs.
Number of Licences to store other spirits	6
Total amount of Fees paid :—	£ s. d.
Petroleum	49 3 0
Carbide of Calcium	1 0 0
Cellulose	1 12 0
	<hr/>
	£51 15 0
	<hr/>

The renewal of licences for the storage of petroleum and carbide is at the end of each year. Inspections have been made with particular attention to new premises and the testing of underground storage tanks at the older petrol stations.

SECTION VIII.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTORS' VISITS

1961

Water supply	52
Drainage	456
Stables and Piggeries	3
Offensive Trades	51
Fried Fish Shops	19
Tents, Vans and Sheds	238
Factories	80
Bakehouses	16
Licensed Premises	14
Refuse Collection	635
„ Disposal	347
Defective Bins	834
„ Pails	14
Rats and Mice	257
Atmospheric pollution.....	35
Schools	14
Shops Act	159
Salvage	113
Petroleum	60
Rent Act 1957	3
Improvement Grants	35
Conversions	1289
Miscellaneous	154

UNDER PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS.

Number of houses inspected	434
Visits paid to above houses	820

UNDER HOUSING ACTS.

Number of houses inspected	120
Visits paid to above houses	201
Standard Grants	522

OVERCROWDING.

Number of houses inspected	1
Visits paid to above house	3

VERMINOUS PREMISES.

Number of houses inspected	2
Visits paid to above houses	2
Miscellaneous Housing Visits	48

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Inquiries in cases of Infectious Disease	40
Visits <i>re</i> disinfection	15
Miscellaneous Infectious Disease visits	9

INSPECTION OF MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

Visits to Slaughter-houses	783
„ „ Butchers	14
„ „ Grocers	105
„ „ Greengrocers and Fruiterers	26
„ „ Food preparing premises	25
„ „ Restaurants	14
„ „ Canteens	56
„ „ Schools	23
Milk samples :—	
Bacteriological	33
T.B.	—
Ice-cream samples	16
Miscellaneous food visits	4

SECTION IX.

PROVISION OF GENERAL HEALTH AND ANCILLARY SERVICES IN THE DISTRICT.

(1) LABORATORY ARRANGEMENTS.

Public Health Laboratory Service and County Analyst's Department.

Pathological specimens, samples of milk, food, "swabs", etc., for *bacteriological* investigation are dealt with by the Public Health Laboratory Service, either at the Public Health Laboratory, Mount Pleasant, Liverpool, or the Laboratory at Monsall Hospital, Monsall, Manchester; the *chemical* analysis of water, milk and other samples of food and drugs is undertaken at the County Analyst's Department, County Offices, Preston

(2) HOSPITAL ARRANGEMENTS.

(Liverpool Regional Hospital Board: Warrington and District H.M.C., and Winwick and Newchurch H.M.C.).

Although the Rural District contains no general hospitals within its boundaries, it is, of course, well served by the two major hospitals situated in Warrington County Borough, the Warrington Infirmary and the General Hospital, Warrington, which deal with general medical, surgical, obstetric and gynaecological cases, and those requiring specialist advice and/or treatment such as ophthalmic, orthopaedic, paediatric, nose and throat conditions, skin diseases and so on. Casualties and emergency cases are dealt with at both hospitals, although the former are more usually conveyed to the Warrington Infirmary in the first instance. Obstetric and Maternity cases are usually admitted to the maternity unit at the General Hospital, and in addition of course the more straightforward maternity cases requiring accommodation may be admitted to Victoria Park Maternity Home, Latchford, Warrington. Cases of infectious disease (other than smallpox), are catered for by the Aikin Street Infectious Diseases Hospital, which also has a block accommodating cases of active pulmonary tuberculosis. In addition to the above, hospitals administered by the St. Helens and District H.M.C., particularly Cowley Hill Hospital, St. Helens, and Whiston Hospital, not infrequently admit maternity cases for which beds cannot be made available in Warrington: and a small proportion of our residents are of course from time to time referred to specialists on the Staffs of the "teaching hospitals" attached to the Universities of Manchester and Liverpool.

Persons requiring advice and treatment, or simply observation and supervision for mental disorders or diseases may be admitted

to Winwick Hospital, the one large hospital which *is* situated within the Rural District, and one which is widely known and respected throughout the whole of the North Western corner of England. The majority by far of such admissions are now, as for many years past, on a voluntary basis, on the advice of general practitioners and psychiatrists who have been consulted in the first instance at the psychiatric out-patient clinic at the General Hospital, Warrington, and Warrington Infirmary.

(3) AMBULANCE ARRANGEMENTS.

Full responsibility for the Ambulance Services provided under Section 27 of the National Health Service Act rests with the Lancashire County Council, as the Local Health Authority. This Rural District, enclosing as it does the northerly boundaries of the Warrington County Borough, for its greater part is serviced by ambulances of the County Borough operating on behalf of the County Council, the parishes so served being those of Penketh, Great Sankey, Burtonwood (part), Winwick (part), Croft, Poulton-with-Fearnhead, Woolston, and Rixton-with-Glazebrook. The remainder of the district is served directly by the County Ambulance Service from the ambulance stations at Newton-le-Willows (Newton-le Willows 2013), which deals with the northerly parts of the parishes of Burtonwood and Winwick, and at Mill Brow, Widnes (Widnes 2121), which deals with the Parish of Cuerdley.

(4) TREATMENT CENTRES AND CLINICS.

School Health Service: School Clinics.

Since November, 1959, an all-purpose clinic in Green Lane, Woolston (in close proximity to the new Woolston County Secondary Modern School), has functioned as a School Clinic, with facilities for the inspection and treatment of minor ailments, dental advice and treatment; ante-natal care and infant-welfare sessions have also been held regularly, as also sessions for poliomyelitis vaccination and immunisation against diphtheria, whooping cough and tetanus. For a short period, also, it was possible to arrange for speech therapy, but unfortunately it has not been feasible to continue this as a result of the shortage of Speech Therapists.

The Clinic is staffed by a Medical Officer, Dr. H. G. M. Bennett, a Dental Officer, two School Nurse/Health Visitors, a Dental attendant, and a Clinic Clerk.

Child Welfare Centres.

Sessions are held at the Infant Welfare Centres detailed below. At these centres medical and nursing advice is available for all

infants and for children of pre-school age, also for expectant mothers, and those recently confined, in relation to matters affecting their general health. Supplies of a variety of infant foods, vitamin preparations, etc., are also available at cost price, together with National Dried Milk, Orange Juice, and Cod Liver Oil, the "Welfare Foods," formerly distributed under the auspices of the Ministry of Food.

(a) BURTONWOOD:

Methodist Sunday School, Phipps Lane.
Medical Officer—Dr. M. Bergin.
Health Visitor in charge—Miss I. Heap.
Sessions—Weekly, each Tuesday, 2.0—4.0 p.m.

(b) CROFT:

Memorial Institute, Mustard Lane.
Medical Officer—Dr. G. Ellis.
Health Visitor in charge—Mrs. E. I. Griffiths.
Sessions—Fortnightly, alternate Mondays, 2.0—4.0 p.m.

(c) PADGATE:

Methodist Sunday School, Padgate Lane.
Medical Officer—Dr. H. G. M. Bennett.
Health Visitor in charge—Miss E. Atkinson.
Sessions—Weekly, each Wednesday, 2.0—4.0 p.m.

(d) PENKETH:

Methodist Sunday School, Chapel Lane.
Medical Officer—Dr. M. Bergin.
Health Visitor in charge—Miss W. Henry.
Sessions—Weekly, each Monday, 2.0—4.0 p.m.

(e) SANKEY:

Eagle Sports Club, Hood Lane.
Medical Officer—Dr. M. Bergin.
Health Visitor in charge—Miss K. Eustace.
Sessions—Weekly, each Friday, 2.0—4.0 p.m.

(f) WINWICK:

Methodist Church Hall, Golborne Road.
Medical Officer—Dr. M. Bergin.
Health Visitor in charge—Mrs. E. I. Griffiths.
Sessions—Fortnightly, alternate Thursdays, 2.0—4.0 p.m.

(g) WOOLSTON:

School Clinic, Green Lane, Woolston.
Medical Officer—Dr. H. G. M. Bennett.
Health Visitors—Miss E. Atkinson, Mrs. D. Creighton, Mrs. J. Chambers.
Sessions—Weekly, each Thursday, 2.0—4.0 p.m.

During the year under review the following attendances were made at the above Welfare Centres :—

Number of individual children attending :

Born in 1961	483
„ „ 1960	377
„ „ 1956-59 (mean)	264
Total	<hr/> 1,124 <hr/>

Number of attendances made by children :

Under 1 year of age	7,111
1—2 years of age	1,199
2—4 years of age	1,083
Total	<hr/> 9,393 <hr/>

(5) MIDWIFERY ARRANGEMENTS.

Domicillary. Three whole-time domicillary midwives and four district nurse/midwives are engaged on this work within the Rural District in the employment of the County Council, which is both the Local Health Authority and the Supervising Authority under the Midwives Acts. These nurses normally accept responsibility for cases residing within reasonable proximity of their homes, but the principle of the expectant mother's free choice of midwife (as of doctor), is well established. Each has a car at her disposal to enable her to respond quickly to urgent calls and to carry apparatus for analgesia.

The names and addresses of these ladies are :—

WHOLE-TIME MIDWIFE :

- Mrs. M. Hindley, 147, Park Road, Sankey. Tel. No. Penketh 3511.
- Mrs. M. A. Lawton, 21, Marina Avenue, Sankey. Tel. No. Warr. 33236.
- Mrs. M. A. Taylor, 16, Hawthorne Grove, Paddington. Tel. No. Warr. 33664.

WHOLE-TIME NURSE/MIDWIVES :

- Mrs. V. M. Gibbins, 300, Padgate Lane, Padgate. Tel. No. Warr. 34755.
- Mrs. K. M. McCarron, 20, Brookside Avenue, Sankey. Tel. No. Penketh 2147.
- Mrs. F. T. McConnell, 56, Haley Road South, Burtonwood. Tel. No. Newton 3217.
- Mrs. C. Price, 10, Arkenshaw Road, Croft. Tel. No. Culcheth 3373.

A total of 310 babies were born in their own homes during the year; with possibly one or two exceptions, their mothers were either actually delivered, or attended, by the midwives and nurse/midwives detailed above. No cases of Puerperal Pyrexia was recorded during the year—a high tribute to the standard of midwifery displayed.

(6) HEALTH VISITING ARRANGEMENTS.

This work has been carried out by six whole-time and one part-time Health Visitor, who combine with health visiting duties those of School Nurse. These domiciliary visits, so necessary from the standpoint both of the supervision and the health education of the families, are, of course, complementary to the work carried out at the Child Welfare Centre, as described above.

The names and addresses of the Health Visitors are :—

for Sankey, Penketh and Cuerdley :

Miss W. Henry, 38, Greens Road, Whiston, Prescot.

Miss K. Eustace, 5, Haigh Road, Widnes.

for Padgate, Woolston, Rixton and Glazebrook :

Miss E. Atkinson, 88, Whitefield Road, Walton.

Mrs. D. H. Creighton, 13, Higher Knutsford Road,
Grappenhall. (Part-time).

Mrs. J. Chambers, 56, St. John's Avenue, Warrington.

for Burtonwood :

Miss I. Heap, "Maynard", Belvedere Road, Newton-le-Willows.

for Winwick and Croft :

Miss E. I. Griffiths, 49, Golborne Road, Lowton, via Warrington.

(7) HOME NURSING ARRANGEMENTS.

Home nursing is undertaken by four whole-time nurse/midwives and one whole-time nurse.

The names and addresses of the Nurses are :—

Mrs. K. Briers, 18, New Road, Croft.

'Phone No.: Culcheth 2520.

Mrs. V. M. Gibbins, 300, Padgate Lane, Padgate.

'Phone No.: Warrington 34755.

Mrs. K. M. McCarron, 20, Brookside Avenue, Sankey.

'Phone No.: Penketh 2147.

Mrs. F. T. McConnell, 56, Haley Road Sth., Burtonwood,
Phone No.; Newton-le-Willows 3217.

Mrs. C. Price, 10, Arkenshaw Road, Croft.

'Phone No.: Culcheth 3373.

(8) HOME HELP ARRANGEMENTS.

This is a permissive service provided by the County Council through No. 10 Divisional Health Committee, and is one of the Local Health Authority responsibilities under the National Health Act, 1946. Its aim is to provide help in homes where such is required owing to the presence in the household of a case of sickness (including tuberculosis), of mental subnormality or disorder, an expectant mother (or one lying-in), or of a child under compulsory school-leaving age. The presence in the household of an aged person also constitutes a justification.

These arrangements are not free of cost to all those benefiting thereby, but in the majority of cases assisted, particularly those who are aged and infirm, no charge is incurred under the County Council's scale.

The Home Helps engaged are all part-time "Helps"; no whole-time workers are employed.

The Home Help Organiser, and the Assistant Home Help Organiser are :—

Organiser : Miss M. MacLean.

Assistant : Mrs. C. Davies.

Both these ladies may be communicated with at the Divisional Health Offices, Winwick (Tel. Warrington 33144).

During the current year a total of 61 Home Helps, all part-time workers, assisted 250 cases within the Rural District. The amount of help allocated varies according to the needs of each individual case.

(9) MENTAL HEALTH ARRANGEMENTS.

The district is covered for this purpose by three full-time Mental Welfare Officers, one a lady, who deals with the various aspects of mental health, including all cases in which investigation, supervision and appropriate action is required under the Mental Act, 1959.

The names and addresses of these officers are :—

Mr. F. Griffin, 79, Legh Street, Golborne.

'Phone No.: Golborne 563.

Mr. H. Andrews, 419, Newton Road, Lowton.

'Phone No.: Newton-le-Willows 3559.

Miss D. M. Bexon, 16, Whitefield Road, Stockton Heath.

'Phone No.: Stockton Heath 1202.

It will be appreciated that, owing to the character of the Mental Welfare Officers' duties, twenty-four hour cover is given to this type of work.

(10) ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE PREVENTION OF ILLNESS, CARE AND AFTER-CARE (INCLUDING TUBERCULOSIS) AND THE PROVISION OF CONVALESCENT ACCOMMODATION.

(a) Responsibility for the above rests with the Local Health Authority, partly on an obligatory and partly on a permissive basis; "illness" includes mental disorder. The scope of such arrangements is very wide, and includes all the methods of health education and propaganda relating to health matters, health visiting in the homes (including those of persons suffering from tuberculosis), the provision of nursing and ancillary equipment, the after-care of patients who have suffered from illness either at home or in hospital, and the provision of convalescent accommodation and rehabilitation where this is required, to enable those recently sick to regain full health and strength.

(b) Responsibility for the supervision of cases of tuberculosis in the homes and for that of family contacts, to ensure appropriate examination and advice by the Chest Physician, now devolves on a single health visitor, covering the whole of the Rural District, and working in the closest contact with the Chest Physicians at clinics in Warrington, Widnes, and Newton-le-Willows. The name and official address of the Health Visitor and details of the Chest Clinic sessions concerned with Rural District cases are given below:

Miss M. Monks, c/o Divisional Health Office, The Old Rectory, Winwick.

CHEST CLINICS:

Warrington General Hospital—

Sessions: Tuesday evening, 5.0—8.0 p.m.; Wednesday, 2.0—4.0 p.m.; Alternate Fridays, 9.30—10.30 a.m.

Widnes, Chapel Street—

Sessions: Monday, Tuesday and Friday, 1.30—3.30 p.m.

Newton-le-Willows Chest Clinic, Cottage Hospital, Bradlegh Road—

Sessions: Monday, 9.0 a.m.—12 noon; Wednesday, 9.0 a.m.—12 noon.

(c) *Chiropody.* A most important measure on the prevention of illness and disability, affecting particularly the elderly and the handicapped, has been the initiation of a chiropody service for these groups, and also for expectant mothers, as the result of a decision of the Ministry of Health that such a Service might prop-

erly be provided by Local Health Authorities under Section 28 of the National Health Service Act of 1946.

Treatment of this character has for a number of years past been available in certain parishes through the good offices of the Warrington and District Council of Social Service, but the decision of the Ministry has now made possible a considerable extension of these facilities throughout the whole of the Rural District. Treatment is usually carried out at Clinics, or at the Surgeries of the Chiropodists concerned, who are employed (part time) on a sessional basis; but where patients circumstances are such as to preclude their attendance at a surgery or clinic, some treatment is carried out on the production by the patient of a certificate from a doctor, nurse or midwife that this is required.

(d) *Health Education.*

As regards Health Education (a very important and essential factor in the prevention of illness), it is pertinent here to emphasise that although some responsibility for this section of preventive medicine may be accepted (as has been the case) by the Local Health Authority, the permissive power of the Council as a Local Sanitary Authority to carry out measures of health education under Section 179 of the Public Health Act, 1936, is still extant and should continue to be exercised.

VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION ARRANGEMENTS.

Vaccination against smallpox and immunisation against diphtheria, whooping cough, and tetanus, are carried out at the various Child Welfare Centres in the area.

During the year a total of 537 children under 15 years of age completed the full course of immunisation against diphtheria, of which 476 were under 5 years. In addition, 238 children received re-inforcement or booster injections.

The percentage proportion of the estimated child population under 15 years in an immunised state at 31st December, 1961 was 63% as against 69%, the comparable figure for No. 10 Health Division.

299 infants under 1 year of age were vaccinated in 1961 against smallpox, giving a percentage proportion of 54%. A further 17 under the age of 5 years, 10 in the 5—15 group, and 13 over 15 years were also vaccinated for the first time. 38 re-vaccinations were performed.

POLIOMYELITIS VACCINATION

The programme for poliomyelitis vaccination started in 1956 and was further extended in 1961 to include all people under the

age of 40. 1961 also saw a mild poliomyelitis epidemic on Merseyside and as a result the following large numbers of vaccination against poliomyelitis were carried out in this area.

Primary

Children under 5 years of age	663
Children and other persons over 5 years of age	2065

Reinforcement

Children under 5 years of age	412
Children and other persons over 5 years of age	2251

SECTION X.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948.

The Local Authority carrying responsibility for the implementation of Parts III and IV of this Act is the County Council, and the administrative machinery, in this case also, is on a divisional basis. The main requirements, of Part III, relate to the provision of accommodation, both temporary and residential, for persons who are without lodging; and to Welfare Services in general for persons handicapped by infirmities such as Blindness, Deafness, Dumbness, crippling physical defects, and other disabilities of a severe and permanently handicapping character.

The approved scheme of the County Council in regard to Welfare utilises very fully the services rendered by the various voluntary agencies already in existence prior to this legislation.

Section 47 of this Act prescribes the procedure whereby aged and infirm persons, if not receiving adequate care and attention in their own homes, may, by a Court Order, be removed to a suitable hospital following a hearing by the Court of evidence in support of a certificate issued by the Medical Officer of Health after close consideration of all the circumstances of the case : whilst the later Act of 1949 amends the original procedures to make it speedily effective in cases of urgency.

Section 50 is of importance in that it places on the County District Authority the duty of arranging for the burial or cremation of the body of any person who has died or been found dead within the district when "it appears to the Authority that no suitable arrangements for the disposal of the body have been or are being made otherwise than by the Authority."

No action under either of these sections has been called for during the year.

SECTION XI.

THE CHILDREN ACT, 1948.

In the main, this Act provides for the care and welfare of children and young persons up to the age of 18 years who for one reason or another are deprived of normal home life, and it thus has an important bearing on the mental and physical health of such children.

The County Council, which is the Local Authority for the purposes of this Act, exercises its functions through its Children's Committee and the Children's Officer, who is responsible to the Committee for the efficient administration and day-to-day operation of the service, which is carried out on a regional or area basis. The Warrington Rural District lies administratively within the responsibility of the Children's Officer for the Leigh area.

Fortunately the days of serious neglect and wilful brutality have receded, but there still exists an appreciable number of cases where minor degrees of cruelty and neglect arise often as the result of indifference or simply inadequacy on the part of the parents. Such cases must give rise to concern in the minds of a number of different groups of social workers: Children's Visitors, Health Visitors, Inspectors of the N.S.P.C.C., etc.—and are not infrequently complicated by insanitary and overcrowded housing conditions, or the frank mental backwardness or defectiveness of parents and/or children. In order to integrate all viewpoints, to consider the action most appropriate and the officer in whose particular sphere of influence the probable remedy lies, case conferences are held which are attended by representatives of both statutory authorities and voluntary agencies which have the interests and welfare of children at heart. These conferences have been most valuable in enabling effective supervisory and remedial measures to be undertaken.

